

City of Springfield
Work Session Meeting

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF
THE SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2005

The city of Springfield council met in a work session in the Jesse Maine Room, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield, Oregon, on Monday, June 6, 2005 at 6:20 p.m., with Mayor Leiken presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mayor Leiken and Councilors Ballew, Ralston, Fitch, Lundberg, Woodrow and Pishioneri. Also present were City Manager Mike Kelly, Assistant City Manager Cynthia Pappas, City Attorney Joe Leahy, Meg Kieran, Administrative Coordinator Julie Wilson and members of the staff.

1. City Attorney Office Evaluation.

Human Resources Director Bill Spiry presented the staff report on this item. The results of the annual evaluation have been received, tabulated and are now ready for council review and discussion with the City Attorney's Office.

The firm of Harold, Leahy, and Kieran received high marks recently during the annual review of its performance of the city attorney duties and are summarized on Attachment 1 of the agenda item summary document. Forty-seven evaluations were distributed; of those, 24 were returned and indicated ratings of excellent, good and satisfactory. Consequently, staff is negotiating a one-year contract renewal, to be effective on July 1, 2005.

Councilor Woodrow introduced this topic.

Joe Leahy discussed prioritization of issues their firm handles for the city. He explained that often higher priority items surface and other projects do get reprioritized, as needed, due to timing or other priority reasons.

The council was pleased with the performance of the firm and stated that the city receives good representation and advice.

The council appreciated working with the firm. Often land use issues are large projects and require focused resources, the City Attorney's Office goes above and beyond the call of duty. Mayor Leiken appreciated their support and recognized their accomplishments.

Councilor Pishioneri thanked the City Attorney's Office for guidance and support as he has transitioned into his council position.

Joe Leahy clarified that the firm recently lost a very good attorney to another employer. He explained this was due to the fact that the new offer of employment extended a better employment package. It was a loss to have that valued individual leave the firm.

Joe Leahy recognized Matt Cox and stated he brings with him valued prosecutor experience.

Joe Leahy referenced the retainer amount and litigation costs. Cynthia Pappas explained that the firm has requested a three-year versus one-year contract. Council would still have the

opportunity to conduct annual review / renewal of the contract. This contract renewal will be brought back to council at a regular meeting for adoption.

Joe Leahy recognized that times will change as City Manager Mike Kelly retires. Mr. Kelly offers a good perspective and working relationship with the City Attorney's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Minutes Recorder – Julie Wilson

Sidney W. Leiken
Mayor

Attest:

Amy Sowa
City Recorder